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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/830,279

10/23/2001

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04/03/2008

EXAMINER

LOCKETT, KIMBERLY R

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2837

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

04/03/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/830,279

Applicant(s)

MCCABE, GEOFFREY L

Examiner

KIMBERLY R. LOCKETT

Art Unit

2837

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 September 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 85-99, 110-123 and 125 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 89-99, 110-123, and 126-130 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 85-88 and 125 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/3508)
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the alternate anchoring point and the singular apparatus directly connected to the biasing element must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claim 125 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

The phrase "a unitary component that is a single piece of bent plate material comprising having a substantial uniform thickness" is not understood. Clarification is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claim 86 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Desmond.

Desmond discloses the use of a tuning apparatus for a stringed musical instrument comprising a bridge element and a tailpiece, the tailpiece comprising an anchoring point (23) and an alternate string anchoring point (see figure 2).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 87 and 88 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Desmond in view of Storey.

8. Desmond discloses the use of a tuning apparatus for a stringed musical instrument comprising a bridge element and a tailpiece, the tailpiece comprising an anchoring point (23) and an alternate string anchoring point (see figure 2). Desmond does not disclose the use of a fulcrum tremolo.

Storey discloses the use of a bridge with a fulcrum tremolo. Storey also discloses the use of a body, a fulcrum tremolo; a biasing element (24) comprising a first end connected to the fulcrum tremolo and a second end connected to the body (14); and at least one biasing element holder connected to the biasing element; and a singular apparatus connected to the fulcrum tremolo, the singular apparatus comprising a thumbwheel portion (44) operable to position the one biasing element holder, wherein rotation of the thumbwheel portion alters the bias applied by the a biasing element.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the bridge as disclosed by Desmond with the fulcrum as disclosed by Storey in order to provide an adjustable element for each string.

9. Claims 89-99, 110-123, and 126-130 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

10. Applicant's arguments filed 9/12/07 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. The applicant argues that Storey does not disclose the use of a fulcrum tremolo. However Storey discloses the use of a fulcrum tremolo (2)(column 6, lines 22-26). The applicant provided no arguments in reference to claims 86-88, the examiner maintains the rejection based on the Desmond and Storey references. Desmond discloses the use of a tuning apparatus for a stringed musical instrument comprising a bridge element and a tailpiece, the tailpiece comprising an anchoring point (23) and an alternate string anchoring point (see figure 2). Storey discloses the use of a bridge with a fulcrum tremolo. Storey also discloses the use of a body, a fulcrum tremolo; a biasing element (24) comprising a first end connected to the fulcrum tremolo and a second end connected to the body (14); and at least one biasing element holder connected to the biasing element; and a singular apparatus connected to the fulcrum tremolo, the singular apparatus comprising a thumbwheel portion (44) operable to position the one biasing element holder, wherein rotation of the thumbwheel portion alters the bias applied by the a biasing element.

10. Papers related to this application may be submitted to Group 2800 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Group 2800 via the PTO 2800 Fax Center at 703-872-9306.

For assistance in **Patent procedure, fees or general Patent questions** calls should be directed to the **Patents Assistance Center (PAC) whose telephone number is 800-786-9199**. Assistance is also available on the Internet at www.uspto.gov.

Any inquiry concerning **this communication or earlier communications from the examiner** should be directed to **Kim Lockett whose telephone number is (571) 272-2067**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lincoln Donovan can be reached on (571) 272-1988.

/Kim R. Lockett/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2837